



Maps

Yellowstone and
Grand Teton
National Parks

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**National
Parks
Centennial
1872-1972**

GRAND TETON



Grand Teton National Park

Few horizons have inspired men as has the massively rugged, magnificent skyline of Grand Teton National Park. Seen from the floor of Jackson Hole, the wind- and ice-carved horns, knife-edged ridges, and cirques challenge the adventurous and evoke wonder in all.

We do not know how this mountainscape may have effected the minds and hearts of the first men who gazed upon it some 9,000 years ago. According to an early trapper, the Shoshone Indian name for the snowfield- and glacier-bedecked peaks meant "hoary-headed fellethers." French-speaking trappers who followed the intrepid John Colter into the Teton and Yellowstone country in the early decades of the 19th century named the most impressive group of peaks *Les Trois Tétons* (the three breasts). The valley 7,000 feet below was named Jackson Hole, for trapper David Jackson

The floor of the valley is relatively flat, having been partly tilted by glacial and other rock debris eroded from the mountains. You can see much of this valley till exposed where the Snake River has carved a winding course through the upper-level deposits Jackson, Leigh, Jenny, Two Ocean, and Emma Matilda are the largest of many sparkling moraine lakes in the valley. Completing the panorama of nature in Grand Teton are the higher glacial lakes, smelt but active glaciers, extensive forests, and an array of wild animals unsurpassed in any park of comparable size.

How is it that these majestic, craggy, blue-gray mountains and the lake-strewn valley over which they tower have become part of the National Park System? Unlike the Yellowstone wilderness, they were not secured for posterity before the intrusion of settlement and exploitation.

The trapper brigades, having cleaned out the beavers, disappeared in mid-19th

century. Later the homesteaders came to try their hand at wresting a living from this rugged land. Then with the railroad came dude ranching—and Easterners who saw here a unique potential for outdoor recreation amidst scenic splendor. In the 1920's John D. Rockefeller, Jr., began buying land at the foot of the range, thus slowing the pace of commercial development in Jackson Hole.

In 1929, lands embracing the major peaks were set aside by Congress as the embryonic Grand Teton National Park. Despite vigorous opposition, a move to expand the park onto the valley floor gained impetus. In 1950 the present national park, including lands donated by Rockefeller, was established, assuring that future generations would be able to see these unspoiled mountains mirrored in Jackson Lake or to look down on the picturesque valley from their heights.



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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1972-483-423/02
For sale by the Superintendent of Documents,
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20540 Price \$5 cents

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